

CLAIMS

1. A method of color correction for an image-outputting device for outputting an image using a combination of a plurality of coloring materials each having different constituent material, said method of color correction for an image-outputting device comprising:

- a) a first glossiness obtaining step for obtaining glossiness of a mono-color output produced individually with each said coloring material;
- b) a second glossiness obtaining step for obtaining glossiness of a mixed-color output produced by combining two or more of said coloring materials;
- c) a first relation obtaining step for obtaining a relation between amount of said coloring material used for said mono-color output and the glossiness;
- d) a second relation obtaining step for obtaining a relation between a total amount of said coloring materials used for said mixed-color output and the glossiness;
- e) a third relation obtaining step for obtaining a relation between a mixing ratio of said coloring materials used for said mixed-color output and the glossiness; and
- f) a coloring material combination determining step for determining a combination of said coloring materials with respect to variation of glossiness based on the relations obtained in said first through third relation obtaining steps.

2. A method of color correction for an image-outputting device for outputting an image using a combination of a plurality of coloring materials each having different constituent material, said method of color correction for an image-outputting device comprising:

- a) a glossiness obtaining step for obtaining glossiness of a mono-color

output produced individually with each said coloring material;

- b) a glossiness estimation step for estimating glossiness, for a case where two or more of said coloring materials are mixed, by using the glossiness obtained for each of said coloring materials;
- 5 c) a first relation obtaining step for obtaining a relation between amount of said coloring material used for said mono-color output and the glossiness;
- d) a second relation obtaining step for obtaining a relation between a total amount of said coloring materials used for said mixed-color output and the glossiness;
- 10 e) a third relation obtaining step for obtaining a relation between a mixing ratio of said coloring materials used for said mixed-color output and the glossiness; and
- f) a coloring material combination determining step for determining a combination of said coloring materials with respect to variation of glossiness based on the relations obtained in said first through third relation obtaining steps.
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3. A method of color correction for an image-outputting device for
20 outputting an image using a combination of four primary printing colors of cyan, magenta, yellow and black, said method of color correction for an image-outputting device comprising:

- a) a glossiness obtaining step for obtaining glossiness of a mono-color output produced individually with said coloring materials;
- 25 b) a glossiness estimation step for estimating glossiness, for a case where two or more of said coloring materials are mixed, by using the glossiness obtained for each of said coloring materials;
- c) a first relation obtaining step for obtaining a relation between amount of said coloring material used for said mono-color output and the glossiness;
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- d) a second relation obtaining step for obtaining a relation between a total amount of said coloring materials used for said mixed-color output and the glossiness;
- e) a third relation obtaining step for obtaining a relation between a mixing ratio of said coloring materials used for said mixed-color output and the glossiness;
- f) a coloring material combination determining step for determining a combination of said coloring materials with respect to variation of glossiness based on the relations obtained in said first through third relation obtaining steps; and
- g) a black mixing amount determination step for determining a mixing amount of black according to said determined combination.

4. A method of color correction used in outputting a color image on a recording paper by superposing a plurality of coloring materials, said method of color correction being characterized by controlling a total amount of said coloring materials, and comprising the steps of:

obtaining individual amounts of said coloring materials composing the color image;

obtaining the total amount of said coloring materials from the individual amounts of said coloring materials;

adjusting the total amount of said coloring materials into a match with a threshold and adopting the threshold as a reference table value, if the threshold is smaller than the total amount of said coloring materials; and

adopting the total amount of said coloring materials as it is, as a reference table value, if the threshold is greater than the total amount of said coloring materials.

5. The method of color correction according to claim 4, wherein the

total amount is controlled by adjusting amounts of coloring materials other than a coloring material of black color, in a case where one of said plurality of coloring materials is black.

5 6. The method of color correction according to claim 4 further
comprising the steps of:

obtaining a distance between a coordinate point of an input color and another coordinate point of black color in a color space of input color signal;

10 obtaining a threshold from the obtained distance; and

controlling the total amount of said coloring materials using the threshold.

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